

Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY) issued the following statement in response to an alarming new study from Americans for the Arts, which found that the health and vitality of the arts in this country fell noticeably last year. A [copy of the study is available](#) on the Americans for the Arts website.

“We know that an investment in arts education helps children learn, sparks creativity, helps make them more appealing to employers,” Slaughter said. “Arts education improves the academic performance of our students, regardless of their economic background. In fact, we know that students who take art and music classes in high school score higher on their SATs than those who don't. They enjoy school more, have improved communication skills and are less likely to engage in dangerous or destructive behavior outside of the classroom. The arts are an essential part of our culture and our society and we must make the hard decisions necessary to continue investing in art programs. This study by Americans for the Arts is an important indicator of where we are as a country and I commend them for undertaking this review.”

Slaughter appeared at a briefing on January 20 at the National Press Club where the study was released. Slaughter is Co-Chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus and has been for many years a strong advocate for arts programs and for the role in government in supporting and promoting arts.